

# AHVP AT A GLANCE

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Established in 1995, the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) provides vouchers for rental assistance to non-elderly handicapped persons of low-income who have been determined eligible and qualified for c. 667 elderly/handicapped housing. AHVP is administered locally by participating local housing agencies, either a local housing authority or a regional administering agency. DHCD's Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance has responsibility for regulatory and administrative oversight of this program.

### How it works:

A program participant will pay rent in an amount equal to either 25 or 30% of the household's monthly net income to the landlord. The percentage charged depends on whether utilities are included or not included in the rent. The administering local housing agency will provide rental assistance payments to the landlord on behalf of the program participant for the remainder of the monthly rental amount.

### Who is eligible:

Applicants who are non-elderly, less than 60 years age, and who are eligible and qualified for the c. 667 elderly/handicapped housing program.

### Application process:

Applicants can apply at any one of the 23 local housing agencies that have received an allocation of Alternative Housing Vouchers. Eligible applicants will be placed on a waiting list. Once an application reaches the top of the waiting list, the applicant will be given a briefing on all aspects of the program. During the briefing, the applicant will receive an AHVP Voucher which provides 120 days for the applicant to locate appropriate housing. The AHVP voucher is valid in Massachusetts only.

## ADMINISTERING AGENCIES

Local Housing Authority (LHA)	Telephone Number	Total Vouchers
Acton	(978)-263-5339	21
Amherst	(413)-256-0206	20
Andover	(978)-475-2365	5
Barnstable	(508)-771-7222	closed (13)
Brockton	(508)-588-6880	closed (63)
Cambridge	(617)-864-3020	77

Charlton	(508)-248-5067	18
Chelsea	(617)-884-5617/5618	8
Fitchburg	(978)-343-7025/342-5222	8
Holyoke	(413)-539-2220	20
Ipswich	(978)-356-2860	8
Lynn	(781)-592-1966	closed (23)
Marlboro	(508)-624-6908	4
Melrose	(781)-665-1622	2
New Bedford	(508)-997-4800	25
Newburyport	(978)-465-7216	3
P'town H. A./HAC	(508)-487-0434/(508)-771-5400	4
Revere	(781)-284-4394/1549	98
Sandwich	(508)-833-4979/760-2352	23
Sharon	(781)-784-2733	6
Spencer	(508)-885-3904	47
Springfield	(413)-785-4500	20
Westfield	(413)-568-9283	17
Whitman	(781)-447-6363/5019	12
Worcester	(508)-635-3000	closed (4)

#### FY16 ACTIVITY

The FY16 GAA increased the AHVP appropriation by \$1,050,000 over FY15. With increased funding, DHCD was able to add an additional 120 vouchers. Working in close coordination with advocate groups, it was identified that there was a need for more AHVP vouchers in Western Massachusetts. DHCD worked to bring Amherst, Holyoke and Springfield Housing Authorities onto the program as issuing agencies with an allocation of 20 voucher each. In addition we increased the Westfield Housing Authority's allocation by 10 vouchers so 70 of the 120 new vouchers were allocated to Western Massachusetts. We distributed the remaining 60 new vouchers in other areas that did not have many AHVPs, as well as, to those housing authorities that demonstrated a need for additional AHVP vouchers due to the current numbers of non-elderly, disabled applicants and tenants on Chapter 667 waiting lists and

in units. LHA's received the additional allocations in early November and DHCD has been receiving reports that many are currently being issues and voucher holders are searching for units.

#### QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions on program regulations or administration, please call Ann Cwartkowski, Housing Program Specialist at 617-573-1222.